LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

FALL 2026

off the SHELF

September is LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

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A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes!

9/1 – 9/30 | All Ages

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month and Lake Bluff Public Library invites you to help us celebrate all month long! Show us your Library love throughout the month to earn entries into our raffle for one of three swag bags filled with Lake Bluff Library gear and a $20 Chamber Check!

EARN RAFFLE TICKETS:

- Sign up for a new Library card or renew your current card and earn 5 raffle tickets! (The first 50 people will receive some special Lake Bluff Library swag!)
- Participate in one of our weekly challenges, released every Monday! (max. 1 ticket per week)
- Earn a raffle ticket every time you check out Library materials with your physical Library card! (max. 1 per day)

Leadership Transition at Lake Bluff Public Library

The Lake Bluff Public Library has entered a leadership transition following the departure of Library Director Natalie Starosta, who accepted the position of Library Director at Huntley Area Public Library.

During her tenure, she worked with Library staff and the Board of Trustees to strengthen Library operations, advance long-term planning, and support key initiatives. Natalie's work included developing a new five-year Strategic Plan, creating a Capital Facility Plan, expanding the Library of Things collection, securing funding for the Library's asbestos abatement project, and strengthening community partnerships.

The Lake Bluff Public Library Board of Trustees appointed David Seleb as Interim Library Director at its July 21, 2026, meeting. He previously served in the same role from September 2024 through March 2025 and will lead the Library while the Board conducts a search for the next Library Director.

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere appreciation to Natalie for her leadership and dedication to the Lake Bluff community and wishes her continued success as Library Director at Huntley Area Public Library.

Welcome New Staff Member

Next time you're in the Library, say hello to our newest staff member: **Caitlin Manwaring**, Outreach Library Associate

NEW Library of Things

Take Home Something Unexpected with the Lake Bluff Library's new Library of Things collection! From lawn games and sports equipment to Roku devices and Wi-Fi hotspots, the collection offers unique items you can borrow with your Library card. Whether you're planning a gathering, trying something new, or looking for a fun experience, there's always something new to discover!

Cover design adapted from the American Library Association's National Library Card Sign-up Month campaign.

National Voter Registration Day | 9/15 from 3pm – 5pm
Adults
Register to vote at the Library! In collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, the Library recognizes National Voter Registration Day and invites adults 18 and older to register or update an existing registration.

Neighbor Spotlight: Lake Forest Library R
A Conversation with Patrick Ryan
at Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., LF
9/27 from 2pm – 3:30pm
Join Lake Forest Library for a conversation with author Patrick Ryan moderated by Rebecca Makkai. His award-winning novel, *Buckeye*, follows two Ohio families from the 1920s through the 1960s as they both find and lose love. Register at **LakeForestLibrary.org**.

Banned Books Week
10/5 – 10/10
Lake Bluff Public Library proudly recognizes Banned Books Week to honor and celebrate our freedom to read. Visit the Library to browse displays of frequently challenged books, pick up informational resources, and enter our Banned Books Week raffle.

Save the Date: Mini Golf
12/5 from 12pm – 5pm
All Ages
Putt your way through a 9-hole mini golf course at the Library! First come, first play, so arrive early. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

HALLOWEEN
WITH THE LIBRARY

Halloween Costume Swap
Drop Off: 9/21, 9/22, and 9/23 (During Operating Hours)
Pick Up: 9/26 from 10am – 4pm | All Ages
Do you have new or gently used Halloween costumes you're not sure what to do with? Bring them to the Library for a costume swap! Drop off will occur Monday through Wednesday, then come back to "shop" on Saturday.

Evening Book Club | 9/24 at 6pm | Adults
Join us to discuss *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna, a cozy fantasy about found family, belonging, and a little everyday magic.

Trunk or Treat R
at Lake Bluff Park District, 355 W. Washington Ave., LB
10/16 from 6pm – 7:30pm | All Ages
Join the Lake Bluff Library at the Lake Bluff Park District's annual Trunk or Treat event! Stop by the Library's trunk for treats, fun, and a chance to show your Library spirit. Register at **LakeBluffParks.org**. We hope to see you there!

Outdoor Movie Night
at Lake Bluff Park District, 355 W. Washington Ave., LB
10/16 from 7:30pm - 9pm | All Ages
Get ready for a "hare"-raising evening at the Lake Bluff Library and Lake Bluff Park District's FREE family movie night! Join us at Blair Park Sledding Hill for an outdoor screening of *Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*. *Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

Trick or Treat at the Library | 10/26 – 10/31 | All Ages
Calling all ghosts, goblins, superheroes, and creatures of every kind! Stop by the Library the week before Halloween for some trick-or-treat fun. Visit the First Floor Service Desk to receive a treat. Then, on 10/31, the first 150 trick-or-treaters to visit the Library beginning at 4pm will receive a reflective Halloween bag sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.

Halloween Open House | 10/29 from 4pm – 6pm | Ages 0 - 12
Families, dress in your Halloween finest and join us for a not-so-scary party! Drop in for some stories, a craft, and treats – no tricks!

Witch's Brew: A Tea Blending Workshop R
10/29 at 6pm | Adults
Make your own magical tea blend! We'll sample and discuss a variety of ingredients as you craft your perfect brew.

R = Registration Required V = Virtual
All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

What's in a Name? R
9/10 at 6pm
Chicago has collected countless nicknames, slogans, and mottos over the years, but where did they come from? Join Clarence Goodman as he uncovers the stories behind some of the city's most memorable names and explores the history, culture, and geography that shaped them.

Afternoon Book Club
9/15, 10/20, and 11/10 at 2:30pm
Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

September – *Ilium* by Lea Carpenter
October – *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff
November – *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Wonders of the Great Wall R
9/17 at 6pm
The Great Wall is an international wonder as recognizable as the Egyptian pyramids. Although described as a wall, it was developed as a vast network of defensive fortresses. Educator Yvonne Wolf will share fascinating tales and curious legends about this majestic landmark.

Evening Book Club
9/24 and 11/12 at 6pm
Enjoy a cozy fireside book discussion:

September – *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna
November – *The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year* by Ally Carter

Avoiding Telephone and Internet Scams R
9/29 at 11am
Older adults are increasingly the targets of scam artists on the telephone who use lies, deception, and fear tactics to convince their victims to send them money or provide personal account information. Lake Forest Bank and Trust will help you learn to identify and avoid these types of scams in order to keep your financial information safe.

Trivia Night at Lake Bluff Brewing Co. R
9/30 from 6pm – 8pm
Registration opens 9/23
Trivia is back for one night only! Register your team of up to 6 people for a night of friendly competition at LB Brewing Co.

Let's Dance Bachata R
10/8 at 6pm
Bachata is a dance that originated in the Dominican Republic. Its infectious rhythms and inviting steps have contributed to its fast-growing popularity. No partner is required as we learn the foundations of this rhythmic and expressive dance.

Making Sense of Menopause
10/22 at 7pm R V
This session will cover key terms and stages of menopause, common symptoms, important health considerations, and both prescription and non-prescription management options. Attendees will also learn practical strategies for symptom relief, helpful resources, and when it may be important to seek medical advice.

Witch's Brew: A Tea Blending Workshop R
10/29 at 6pm
Make your own magical tea blend! We'll sample and discuss a variety of ingredients as you craft your perfect brew.

Diwali Kathak Dance Workshop
11/5 at 6pm | All Ages R
Discover the beauty of Kathak through an engaging, interactive workshop. Participants will learn Diwali-inspired gestures and movements while exploring the storytelling traditions of this classical Indian dance. Questions are encouraged throughout the session, which concludes with an optional opportunity to share the dance steps they've learned.

Table Centerpieces with Lake Forest Flowers R
11/7 at 10:30am
Lake Forest Flowers will demonstrate how to craft a beautiful table centerpiece with florals. Participants will leave with their own creations.

Digital Health and Wellness
11/19 at 6pm R V
What is a virtual visit and when are they useful? How do you know if the health information you find online is reliable? What apps and online tools can help you with your health goals? This class will explore a variety of online health and wellness resources and show you how to use them with confidence.

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Illinois Libraries Presents:

Inside the Empire of AI with Karen Hao
9/17 at 7pm R V
Join a timely conversation with Karen Hao, award-winning journalist and author of *Empire of AI*. Hao will explore the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, the social, political, and ethical questions surrounding AI development today, and the questions posed in her work: Will AI produce broad-based societal benefit for all? Or return us to an age of empire? The path forward is in our hands.

Preserving History with Geoffrey Baer
10/20 at 7pm R V
Tag along for a special conversation with Geoffrey Baer, beloved Chicago historian, storyteller, and host of numerous PBS programs, exploring the architecture, history, and hidden stories of the city and surrounding region. Known for bringing local history to life, Baer has helped audiences connect more deeply with the places and communities around them.

Words, Power, and Community:
Dr. Eve L. Ewing R V
11/12 at 7pm
Join acclaimed author, educator, poet, and cultural organizer Dr. Eve L. Ewing for a thoughtful conversation about race, education, identity, and community. Drawing on her work as a writer and scholar, Dr. Ewing will explore how storytelling can deepen our understanding of history, challenge inequality, and inspire meaningful change.

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

TEENS

Volunteer at the Library R
Students 8th – 12th Grade
Looking for a hands-on way to make a difference? Volunteer at the Library! From helping at events to behind-the-scenes projects, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Visit the Library's website for more information.

Tween Crafts: Supporting Shelter Animals
9/24 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Join us to make toys and other crafts for the Orphans of the Storm animal shelter. A volunteer from Orphans of the Storm will be present to teach about the shelter's mission and guide the craft. An adoptable animal will be present during the program.

Pokémon Club
9/5, 10/10 and 11/7 at 1:30pm | Ages 8 – 18
Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG), take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

Tween Crafts: Tie-Dye R
10/22 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Come have fun with tie-dye! Bring your own fabric item to dye or we'll have one for you. One item per person, please wear clothes you can get messy.

Diwali Kathak Dance Workshop R
11/5 at 6pm | All Ages
Discover the beauty of Kathak through an engaging, interactive workshop. Participants will learn Diwali-inspired gestures and movements while exploring the storytelling traditions of this classical Indian dance. Questions are encouraged throughout the session, which concludes with an optional opportunity to share the dance steps they've learned.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
Ongoing | Ages 0 – 6
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten will help your little one learn key building blocks to literacy and language fluency. Whether your child is three months old or three years old, reading helps build social and emotional skills, sparks creativity and imagination, and promotes bonding.

Grab and Go Crafts
Fridays | While Supplies Last
Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available.

Lego Drop-In
9/2, 10/7, and 11/4
from 3pm – 5pm
Drop into the Youth Services Department and play with LEGO bricks!

Messy Crafts
9/5, 10/10, and 11/7 at 11am
Ages 2 – 12
Get ready for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Adult assistance is required for younger children.

Pokémon Club
9/5, 10/10, and 11/7 at 1:30pm
Ages 8 – 18
Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG), take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

Baby and Me
9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, and 11/17 at 10:30am
Ages 0 – 2 with an adult
Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age-appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Beginning Reader Storytime
9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, and 11/18 at 4:15pm
Ages 4 – 7 with an adult
In this fun family program, we'll work on developing the early literacy skills kids need to become confident readers and book enthusiasts through stories, games, art, music, and more.

Mini Movers
9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Family Storytime
9/19 and 11/21 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring play, songs, and lots of fun!

Halloween Costume Swap
Drop Off: 9/21, 9/22, and 9/23 (During Operating Hours)
Pick Up: 9/26 from 10am – 4pm
All Ages
Do you have new or gently used Halloween costumes you're not sure what to do with? Bring them to the Library for a costume swap! Drop off will occur Monday through Wednesday, then come back to "shop" on Saturday.

Chess Club R
9/22, 10/20, and 11/17 at 5pm | Ages 6 – 12
Whether you are new to chess or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help improve your game.

Tween Crafts: Supporting Shelter Animals
9/24 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Join us to make toys and other crafts for the Orphans of the Storm animal shelter. A volunteer from Orphans of the Storm will be present to teach about the shelter's mission and guide the craft. An adoptable animal will be present during the program.

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K9 Reading Buddies R
10/19 and 11/16 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11
Independent readers can register for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Tween Crafts: Tie-Dye R
10/22 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Come have fun with tie-dye! Bring your own fabric item to dye or we'll have one for you. One item per person, please wear clothes you can get messy.

Jasmin Cardenas: Cuentos from the Americas
10/24 at 11am
Enjoy music, movement, elements of dance, and visual images with performer Jasmin Cardenas. Featuring a combination of ancient legends, myths, folktales, and personal tales from North, Central, and South America.

Halloween Open House
10/29 from 4pm – 6pm
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PHYLLIS FOX WRITING CELEBRATION

11/2 – 11/30
Submission Deadline 11/30
Grades K - 8
The Lake Bluff Library is celebrating 40 years of children's creative writing, and we're shaking things up for this milestone anniversary! Writers can submit up to 10 pages of original work in any genre. All submissions will receive personalized feedback from local published authors, and all entrants will be invited to the celebration.

Wondering about the bookmark design contest? It now has its own spotlight! Beginning in 2027, the bookmark design contest will take place during National Library Week in April.

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONTACT US

PHONE: 847-234-2540
WEBSITE: LakeBluffLibrary.org
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE:
@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

David Seleb, *Interim Library Director*
interimdirector@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexandra Friedeman, *President*
Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*
Brian Sobolak, *Treasurer*
Joseph Kearney, *Secretary*
Megan Patterson
Kathleen Reidy
Bonnie Shaul

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 9/15 at 7pm
Tuesday, 10/20 at 7pm
Tuesday, 11/17 at 7pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 9/19 at 11am
Saturday, 10/17 at 11am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone unless otherwise noted. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints and do not constitute an endorsement by the Library of the content of the program or of the views expressed by the attendees. View the full Library Programming Policy at **LakeBluffLibrary.org**.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.

Lake Bluff Public Library
123 E. Scranton Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

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LIBRARY PATRON

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SCAN ME